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Friday
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OFFICIAL AMERICAN SAMOA GOVERNMENT WEEKLY NEWSLETTER Vol. I, No. 29

Governor Togiola ends meetings of Coral Reef Task Force in V.I.

(ST. THOMAS, USVI) - American Samoa Governor Togiola Tulafono joined other the territorial leaders and agency representatives to the United States Coral Reef Task Force to adopt ten resolutions during last Friday's closing session of the 16th Task Force meeting in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Among the adopted resolutions was a call for the Steering Committee of the Task Force to develop and evaluate options for addressing Governor Togiola's statement on global climate change, presented earlier in the day.

Governor Togiola's statement recommended the development of science-based policies to reduce local stressors to coral reefs, the initiation of a national campaign for meaningful efforts to curtail global greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to global warming, and education of the public and leaders to increase awareness of the seriousness of the threat.

In addition to delivering his statement on global climate change, Governor Togiola updated the Task Force on other urgent territorial issues, and provided the Task Force with recommendations for advancing coral reef conservation efforts.

Governor Togiola urged the Task Force to ensure that the greatest possible portion of coral conservation funds be directed to the jurisdictions for increased and improved local level action.

The Governor also sought new partnerships for the development of the Territorial Marine Laboratory, called for the creation of a Center for coral disease and health, and officially announced that American Samoa will be hosting the 18th United States Coral Reef Task Force Meeting next year.

The U.S. Coral Reef Task Force, established in 1998 to preserve and protect coral reef ecosystems, is co-chaired by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration and the Department of the Interior and includes members of 12 Federal agencies, seven States and Territories, and three Freely Associated States.

American Samoa's Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources Director Ufagafa Ray Tulafono and Department of Commerce Deputy Director Lelei Peau also attended the meeting.

ASCC Students and Recent Alumni Now Eligible for Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarships

(PRESS RELEASE) Graduates from the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) will now have the opportunity to access one of the largest scholarships available to students and recent alumni of community colleges across the nation. ASCC Dean of Academic Affairs Dr. Irene Helsham announced this week that she will accept applications now through December 22nd for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. The Foundation will award up to \$30,000 annually per recipient to pursue four-year degrees at any accredited college or university in the United States and abroad. Last year, the Foundation received nearly 700 nominations for these awards.

"As the designated Faculty Representative, I will review all applications with the help of a screening committee," explained Dr. Helsham. "We will decide on two applicants from ASCC to nominate for consideration by the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, who have the final say in the awards. The application form for this scholarship requires quite a lot of academic and personal detail, so I urge anyone interested to begin working on it now because the Foundation will only consider fully completed applications." ASCC sophomores already accepted to begin their junior year at an off-island university, as well as alumni who graduated after May, 2002 may apply for the scholarships. Those interested should contact Dr. Helsham at the College for further information.

(Continued on page 2)

Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarships *(from page 1)*

While 45 percent of all college students in the US attend community colleges, few private funds exist to help these students transfer to four-year institutions, in spite of their high levels of ability and need. The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation scholarships can provide funding for tuition, room and board, required fees, and books for the length of the undergraduate degrees, generally two years. Each award can total up to \$30,000 annually, though amounts will vary based on such factors as the cost of the institution each recipient attends. The Foundation plans to award approximately 50 scholarships through this program in spring, 2007. It will renew awards each year based upon student performance. Nominations for the scholarships must come from the Foundation's designated Faculty Representative at an accredited US community college or two-year institution.

The estate of Jack Kent Cooke established the Foundation to help young people of exceptional promise reach their full potential through education. A businessman and philanthropist who owned the Chrysler Building in New York City, Cooke also owned such professional sports teams as the Los Angeles Lakers and the Washington Redskins. When Cooke passed away in 1997, he left most of his fortune to establish the Foundation. For more information on the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, visit their website at www.jackkentcookefoundation.org, or call 1-800-498-6478.

ASCC/CNR Cultivates Farmers of the Future

By James Kneubuhl, ASCC Press Officer

This past Thursday morning, the students and staff at the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program at the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) enjoyed the first harvest of fresh vegetables from a small garden installed adjacent to their building by the College's Community & Natural Resources Division (CNR). The occasion marked a small but significant first step in the efforts of both ASCC divisions to change nutritional trends in American Samoa. The garden's success, a result of the close working relationship between the ASCC ECE and the CNR Agriculture Extension Program, will hopefully encourage other ECE schools in the Territory to establish their own vegetable growing projects.

"Officials at the School Lunch Program have noticed that more and more often the students leave the vegetables on their plates untouched," explained CNR Agricultural Extension Agent Alfred Peters. "With this project, we want to give the students an early appreciation of how vegetables grow and how eating them regularly helps keep you healthy." To put the plan into motion, Peters enlisted the help of the parents of the ASCC ECE students, who helped construct five boxed-in plots for vegetable growing in the area adjacent to the ECE playground. In September, the parents planted cabbage seedlings in three of the plots, with green onions in another, and green peppers in the last. Since then, the ECE students have kept an eye on the rapid growth of the cabbage, which has reached maturity in less than two months.

Peters, who regularly visits classrooms all over American Samoa to talk about farming and the health benefits of fresh vegetables, hopes that other ECE, elementary and high schools in the Territory will follow the example of the ASCC ECE mini-farm and establish similar models on their own campuses. "A lot of kids today associate vegetables with something that only comes out of a can or frozen in a box," he says. "With these small gardens, they can participate in the whole process of food production, from putting the seeds in the ground to putting the fruits of their labor on their plate. They not only learn a process, but they also get a sense of accomplishment and an appreciation of where food comes from." Peters added that a project such as this reflects both ASCC President Dr. Adele Satele-Galea's goal of combining learning with community service, and CNR Director Tapa'au Dr. Daniel Mageo Aga's vision of the organization promoting a healthy and well-nourished American Samoa population.

The harvesting activities will continue on a regular basis at the ASCC ECE as the rest of the cabbage gets picked over the next two weeks and the green onions and bell peppers reach maturity later this month. For advice on starting your own garden, call CNR at 699-1575 and ask for Agricultural Extension Administrative Officer Helen Lago.

HISTORICAL NOTES

By: Stan Sorensen, Historian, Office of the Governor

On October 18, 1966, President Lyndon Baines Johnson and First Lady Claudia Alta Taylor ("Lady Bird") Johnson visited American Samoa. Mrs. Johnson dedicated the "Manulele Tausala" ("Lady Bird") Elementary School in Nu'uuli, which was named after her. (Lyndon Johnson was the only U.S. President to visit American Samoa. Mrs. Johnson was the second First Lady to visit the Territory. The first was (Anna) Eleanor Roosevelt, on August 23, 1943). President Johnson made the following speech to the people of American Samoa:

Governor and Mrs. Lee, Chief Sotoa, Chief Ma'o, Chief Le'iato, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen: I am very proud that I could be here with you today. I can assure you that the people of the United States share my pride in what American Samoa has done to prove that destiny is really what we make it. This island--with a population of only 22,000--has become the symbol of what many large nations may achieve for their people. It has become a showplace for progress, and a proving ground of methods to improve the lives of our fellow human beings. And, along the way, American Samoa has taken the term "self-help" out of the bureaucrats' dictionary and made it a living language for their people. You have doubled the per-acre yield of your crops. You have sharply reduced the diseases that once plagued your island. And this month you will begin construction of the American Samoan Tropical Medical Center which will provide the finest hospital care in this part of the world. You have almost eliminated childhood malnutrition. You have recognized that education is the tidal force of our century, driving all else ahead of it. I am told that the pilot program of education which you have started may point the way to learning breakthroughs throughout the Pacific islands and Southeast Asia. Samoan children are learning twice as fast as they once did, and retaining what they learn. Surely from among them, one day, will come scientists and writers to give their talents to Samoa, to America, and to the world. One requirement for good and universal education is an inexpensive and readily available means of teaching children. Unhappily, the world has only a fraction of the teachers that it needs. Samoa has met this problem through educational television--which was pioneered here by your outstanding Governor, Rex Lee, and the very able Director of the United States Information Agency, Mr. Leonard Marks. Before Mr. Marks came out here recently to help inaugurate this educational television system, he came to me at the White House and talked to me about its great benefits at some length. Upon his return, he insisted that he come over, and he spent an entire evening reviewing what your hopes and achievements would be. Everyone now wants to study the job that you have done-- UNESCO, the World Bank, New Guinea, New Zealand, India, and other countries around the world. *(Continued on page 4)*

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO ADOPT OR AMEND RULES

Pursuant to American Samoa Code Annotated (ASCA) 4.1001 et seq., the Development Band of American Samoa (DBAS) intends to adopt a Procurement Manual. Interested members of the public may review these documents and/or present their written comments on the same at the DBAS CEO's office located at the DBAS Building at Pago Pago, American Samoa from Wednesday, October 11, 2006 until Wednesday, November 8, 2006. DBAS is normally open for business Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. For further information, please contact Ms. Mary Malauulu at telephone number (684) 633-4031.



CNR Agricultural Extension Agent Alfred Peters prepares to harvest the first vegetables from the new garden adjacent to the ASCC ECE classroom. (Photo: J. Kneubuhl)



CNR Agricultural Extension Agent Alfred Peters (far right) joins ASCC ECE faculty and students to celebrate the first harvest of vegetable from their new garden. (Photo: J. Kneubuhl)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Total Maximum Daily Loads for Mercury and PCBs, and Arsenic Analysis for Pago Pago Inner Harbor

Pursuant to Section 303(d) of the Federal Clean Water Act and its implementing regulations (40 CFR Part 130); the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency (ASEPA) is requesting public comments on the draft Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for Mercury and PCBs, and Arsenic Analysis for Pago Pago Inner Harbor.

The Federal Clean Water Act requires States, Territories, and authorized Tribes to develop TMDLs for impaired waters that are on the 303(d) list. TMDLs identify the pollutant load reductions that are necessary from point and nonpoint sources, and guide implementation work by Federal, State, Tribal, Territorial, and Local water quality protection programs.

A Tier 1 screening level study conducted in 1991 indicated that fish tissues from Pago Pago Inner Harbor contained elevated levels of arsenic, mercury, and PCBs. This study resulted in a health advisory issued by the American Samoa Government in October 1991, warning residents not to eat any fish caught in the Inner Harbor. A Tier 2 Fish Toxicity Study was recently completed (Peshut and Brooks 2005) and, based on the results, the fish consumption advisory for fish and shellfish from Pago Pago Inner Harbor will be re-issued.

The draft TMDL was prepared to determine how much reduction in arsenic, mercury, and PCBs loading is needed to attain applicable targets and associated water quality standards, and how pollutants in sediments are reduced through natural attenuation, and if necessary and feasible, remedial actions. Follow up monitoring is also discussed.

The draft Total Maximum Daily Loads for Mercury and PCBs, and Arsenic Analysis for Pago Pago Inner Harbor is available for public review, for 30 days from the date of this Notice, Monday to Friday, during office hours of 7:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the ASEPA main office located in Utulei.

All comments on the draft TMDL must be submitted in writing within thirty (30) days of the date of this Notice, addressed to the Director, ASEPA, P.O. Box PPA, Pago Pago, American Samoa, 96799. Comments and recommendations received will be included in the final draft document.

To request a copy of the draft Total Maximum Daily Loads for Mercury and PCBs, and Arsenic Analysis for Pago Pago Inner Harbor, please contact ASEPA Water Program at 633-2304.

Contact Person: Malelega Tuiolesega, Program Manager, Public Awareness & Education

E-mail: lega9_1@yahoo.com

More Historical Notes: *(continued from page 3)*

It is truly a remarkable experiment. This technique--which you are helping now to improve--has the power to spread the light of knowledge like wildfire, to spread it all across the wide areas of our earth. So I want to commend you on the stride that you have taken.

We are most grateful for the voluntary action of the Samoan Legislature in voting to pay Federal income taxes. You are the only American territory voluntarily to take on this responsibility. Your taxes are growing with your economy. You paid about \$200,000 in 1963--and yet you paid over a million dollars in 1965. At this rate, you may eliminate the deficit in the United States budget this year.

An American editor, who used to have nothing to say about what we were doing in Samoa, recently wrote, "Somewhere on earth there may be a more spectacular example of revolutionary change in an area and its people, but in years of roving the world's far corners, I have not seen it." All praise to you for that No, not quite all praise. Some of it must go to a man that you know better than you do any other American--your own very able Governor, Rex Lee. This year it was my pleasure to give him the President's Award for Distinguished Federal Civilian Service--an award that is granted to only five individuals each year. I have no appropriate awards to confer upon the people of Samoa for their progress. But there must be great satisfaction and honor enough in contemplating what you have done in 3 years, where you are today, and where the works of progress will lead your children in generations to come. I hope that America may soon accomplish in her other Pacific island responsibilities the same achievements of Samoa. Indeed, I think we must. For no other corner of the world can be left untidy and ignored today. Where once the sailing clippers called rarely in a year, now the jet airliners touch down several times a week. The time is fast coming when there will be no such thing as "a far corner of the earth." So I think this is the way that God intended it. I cannot believe He wanted man to be isolated, ever, from his neighbor. He did not seek that distance or race or religion or creed ever separate us from one another. At the table of need, we all find our place, and the greatest need of all today, I think, is for human fellowship and a sense of what each of us can do for the rest of us.

This is my first visit to American Samoa. I have not been among you but just a moment. But I think I know that what you want most for yourselves and what you want most for your children is really what the vast majority of the world's people want, too. They want to be independent and stand on their self-respect. They want to keep their dignity and to be proud of themselves and their heritage. They insist on equality. They reject being camp followers and stooges for the brokers of international politics. At home it is pride, and the sense of being your own man. In Asia it is called "face." It is what makes all of us members of the same race. It is what makes us know that in the emerging Asia--and throughout the entire world--there is really no place for second-class citizens. Up until our time, it was possible for an island like this to exist in isolation and despair. And it was possible for a large and powerful country like the United States to conceive of itself, also in isolation, as the center of all civilization--indeed, as the center of all human wisdom and glory. But time and change have jostled our prejudice. They have shown us that the center of the world is anywhere that people are. And they have made imperative the spirit of American Samoa today. For the road to the future runs to Asia, and it crosses here--here at the heart of the Pacific.

I want now to thank you from my heart, for what you are doing here is really a message of hope for millions of peoples elsewhere in the Pacific and in Asia. I shall remember your example vividly--and for that, and for the privilege of coming and visiting with you today, I shall always be thankful to you.

SHARE IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES

with our ASG workforce
as well as the citizens of American Samoa.
Email your articles, announcements, pictures or other
information to: **tapuitea@amsamoa.gov.as**

Deadline for submissions is Thursday @ noon.

Contact: Harry Stevens @733-1694
or
Vince Iuli @ 733-1041
or call 633-4116

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FM 104.7

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